

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Richter et al.
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Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/433,182, the time for response to the notice of missing parts having been extended five months, namely up to and including March 26, 2004. Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Listing of the Claims begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.